



EXHIBIT 7
DATE 2-16-2011
HB 439

Department of Biological
and Physical Sciences

16 February 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The science building at Montana State University at Billings is in dire need of more space, updated infrastructure, and current desks and laboratory room, to name only a few things. Aesthetically, the building does not lend itself to modern approach to teaching science. The paint on the walls is peeling and water marks show through the ceiling tiles. The desks and laboratory benches are at the end of their lifespan. There is little room – and certainly not enough – for students to make use of all the equipment that is available. Several of our high-end, multi-thousand dollar microscopes and experimental equipment are stored in closets and back corners of rooms. The benches in the laboratory rooms are cluttered with equipment that has no place to be stored, leaving the students no space to take notes or perform basic experimental procedures without being encumbered.

In addition, the lack of space in the chemistry laboratories make for exceptionally limited efficiency. The hood space is far from adequate, forcing students to wait for the use of necessary chemicals. This slows production, learning, and interest. The classrooms are approaching their maximum for electrical outlets. The rooms are constructed such that noise carries very easily, often impeding on adjacent classroom lectures.

The science department is advancing in technology and resources; however our building does not reflect any of this. An update to infrastructure, resources, and basic appearance of the building would not only help with the effectiveness and competency of the current students and faculty, but perhaps promote enrollment and benefactor and scientific interest.

Very Respectfully,


TJ Flanagan